

The Youth Advocate

S. C. STATE LIBRARY

AUG 19 1975

STATE DOCUMENTS
VOL. 1, NO. 4

1975

Y885
3.Y58
V.1/4
p.3
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

Shivers, West Named Employees of Year



Employees Of The Year

Grady A. Decell, right, director of the S.C. Department of Youth Services, chats with Ms. Julia West, the Agency's "Female Employee of the Year" for 1975. Ms. West is a native of Fayetteville, North Carolina. Other winners are (left to right) J. D. Robinson of Huntsville, Alabama, Campus Policeman of the Year; James Bookhart of Columbia, Male youth Counselor of the Year; and Jack Shivers of Griffin, Georgia, "Male Employee of the Year."

The S.C. Department of Youth Services has named its fiscal affairs director and an art teacher as its male and female employees of the year.

Selected from some 650 employees in an annual agency-wide contest were Jack Shivers and Ms. Julia West, instructor at the John G. Richards campus. They will now compete for South Carolina state employee of the year.

Chosen as male and female youth counselors of the year were James Bookhart, John G. Richards campus, and Mrs. Leacy Godbold, Willow Lane campus. Corporal J. D. Robinson was named campus police officer of the year. All will be honored at the agency's annual outing in June.

Shivers, a 1938 Furman University graduate, has worked for the state for more than 30 years. A former coach and teacher in Timmonsville and Florence, where he organized the city's first Little League baseball team, Shivers joined the agency in 1954. He was superintendent of the John G. Richards campus and director of the agency when it was the S.C. Department of Juvenile Corrections. Shivers has been Deputy Director for Fiscal Affairs since August, 1970.

Ms. West, a native of Fayetteville, N.C., started the art program at John G. Richards and at Willow Lane in 1970. Under her

Continued on Page 3

Compton Flies in Civil Air Patrol

George Compton taxied the Cessna 172 to the end of Runway 25 at Owens Field.

After a brief run-up, Compton swung the single-engined craft onto the strip and said over the radio, "November-Five-One-Seven-Eight-Fox (the phonetic call letters of the aircraft) ready for takeoff."

The craft rose smoothly over the edge of the runway. Houses, cars and trees shrank to model size as he climbed to 1,500 feet. He turned northward along the Congaree River.

"I've been flying for over 12 years," the Supervisor of Supportive Services said over the roar of the engine. "And I love it."

Compton, when not in charge of maintenance, farm and food service programs for the Agency,

is most likely to be found at the Civil Air Patrol state headquarters at Owens Field in Columbia. He is a lieutenant colonel in the organization, where he is Director of Operations.

Compton has more than 1,500 hours, much of it in the air in search of lost aircraft. It is his responsibility to supervise the South Carolina's wing search and rescue missions for aircraft suspected of being lost, missing, or down.

He gets no pay for his work. The Air Force, of which CAP is a vital part, refunds gasoline and damaged airplane parts.

"All of us fly for the fun of it," said Compton. "I got my start many years ago when I was Youth Guidance Counselor for Anderson County. And I've been with it ever since."

Continued on Page 4



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1975

Dear Mr. Borden:

Thanks for your nice letter of May 12th. It was a great pleasure for me to attend the presentation of the 1974 volunteer awards on April 24th.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of your brochure and the bumper sticker you devised, which certainly presents the appropriate philosophy.

With very best wishes to you in the work you are doing,

Sincerely,

Mr. Edward B. Borden
Coordinator for Public
Education/Information
Department of Youth Services
Post Office Box 21487
Columbia, South Carolina 29221

Director's Dialogue...

by
Grady A. Decell

(FIRST OF TWO PARTS)



Very often I'm asked, "What is the concept of the Department of Youth Services?" Or, there might be an even more basic question, "What does the Department of Youth Services do?"

We work with troubled children. We try to provide some meaning to their lives so that they might make an attempt to contribute something of themselves in a positive way back to society.

The purpose of this Agency, in a statement of philosophy approved by the Board, is that we're "charged with the responsibility of providing custodial treatment, care and rehabilitation for youthful offenders." We're also "an effect program of delinquency prevention throughout the state."

Our responsibility is to provide for the child committed to our Division of Juvenile Corrections proper and adequate physical care and a program of professional treatment services to effect rehabilitation.

Through our Division of (Community Based) Youth Bureau programs, and working in coordination with other agencies, courts and units of local government, we're to develop such strategies and facilities as may be necessary to implement an effective program of Delinquency Prevention throughout the state.

It's a big task we're set out to do.

In this issue, I'd like to discuss some of the concepts and goals of our Division of Juvenile Corrections. I'll discuss the Youth Bureau program in the next issue.

Turning children back to the community is a long involved process that demands time, patience and caring, especially for severely disturbed children. No one likes to see a child in an institution. But sometimes that's the best approach possible to work with a troubled child.

Each case is an individual one. We decide on individual merits what we think should be and what should not be done. When we place a child in an institution, we do it for the shortest time possible, trying to return them to the community with a skill, more schooling or a better understanding of themselves.

We care for each child. We are concerned about each child. We want each child to do well. Within the limits of our abilities, we are going to try to help each child reach his potential.

With this issue the Youth Advocate carries the state logogram, symbol of South Carolina's Bicentennial effort.

The logo represents those valiant sons and daughters of the Palmetto State who fought in the Revolutionary War. Of all the patriots who were engaged in that desperate struggle, none suffered more, dared more, nor achieved more. The greatest number of battles in any of the colonies was fought in South Carolina.

In memory of those brave spirits, the Youth Advocate will publish the state logo through the Bicentennial year.

FEMALE YOUTH COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

Grady A. Decell, right, director of the S.C. Department of Youth Services, chats with Ms. Leacy Godbold, who has been chosen "Female Youth Counselor of the year." Mrs. Godbold is a native of Marion, South Carolina.



Around Campus...

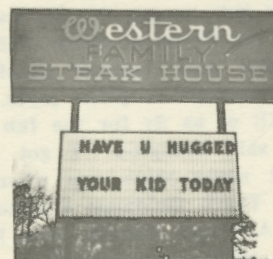
Gerald D. Gribler of Campus Police presented a program about the Agency to students of a class at Dentsville Junior High School... The Rev. Horace Youngblood, Supervisor of Chaplains, spoke to students at Dreher High School... Nine members of the Beaufort County Family Court toured the Agency in late February... The Rev. Al Brodie, R&E, spoke to Highland Park Baptist Church in Charleston... Officials of the Aiken County Family Court and several Aiken County citizens were very impressed with a recent visit to the Agency and are interested in some relief for the "acting out" student in the public school system, according to Rev. Youngblood... Donna W. Gross, Personnel Technician, spoke to the Human Services class at Palmer campus, Midlands Tec... Farm visits in April and May included those by St. Andrews Baptist Church kindergarten, Denny Terrace Elementary School, Sara Nance Elementary School kindergarten, Park Street Baptist Church kindergarten, Pineridge kindergarten, University of South Carolina kindergarten, University Union Nursery, Shandon Methodist Church kindergarten, Kil-

bourne Park Baptist Church kindergarten and Irmo Elementary kindergarten... Psychologist Terry D. Payne, Charleston Youth Bureau, spoke at an education class, Charleston Air Force Base... Nine members of the S.C. House of Representatives toured the Columbia facilities under the guidance of Marion D. McGowan, Irene Rudnick, Earl M. Middleton, Juanita Goggin, George Wilson, H. Parker Evatt, Harold E. Taylor, and John W. Matthews... Members of ICU Mod, under the direction of Jim Sparger, Director of Drama, showed Megan Terry's play, "The Gloaming Oh My Darling"... Open House for St. Luke's Youth Center was held Sunday, May 25... The Rev. Brodie spoke to three hundred members of Fellowship Baptist Church in West Columbia and conducted a tour for Bamberg High School students... Members of the Stephen Green Memorial Baptist Church gave a \$25 honorarium to Chaplain Youngblood, who donated it to the Student Welfare Fund... R. D. Bollacker, Jr., Unit Supervisor, Reception and Evaluation Center, spoke to students at Benedict College.

The Youth Advocate is published monthly by the S. C. Department of Youth Services, Box 21487, Columbia, S.C. 29221. It is entered as third class mail at the Columbia Post Office. All inquiries to the newsletter, including address changes, should be addressed to the editor.

This newsletter is printed by Youth Services students on the John G. Richards campus.

Mrs. Barbara T. Sylvester Chairman
Grady A. Decell Director
Edward B. Borden Editor



Indicative of the concern people feel about their children is this sign on a Greenville Restaurant. The operator kept the Agency's slogan on his marquee for a month. (Contributed by Rep. Thomas M. Marchant III).

Agency Youth Make Mark in Boxing

Herbert Deese looked up from the teenager's hand that he was bandaging with tape.

"All right you boys, the rest of you. Move your necks to loosen them. Do your exercises. I want you warmed up by the time you enter the ring."

Three young men, dressed in white-and-black boxing shorts, head guards, gloves and boxing shoes, moved to obey. A dozen admirers watched raptly as they shadow boxed and stretched in the narrow confines backstage at the Memorial Youth Center.

A roar of the crowd filtered through the closed door as Deese continued taping the hand. "Hold it still. Keep your fingers spread apart," he said softly.

Moments later Deese returned with the bout card. "Okay, Maynard you're in the third fight. Calvin you're fifth. Mallie is sixth and Richard eighth. Get in there and do your stuff."

It was a typical Thursday night fight crowd at the Youth Center. Some one hundred children, teenagers, young adults and oldsters sat in wooden chairs in the dimly lit arena.

Two hours later, the five fighters Deese coached won their matches. "They did as they were supposed to," Deese said. "I'm not as concerned at this point about their winning, though. I just want them to box well."

The team Deese was coaching moved its won-loss record to 34-3. What is remarkable is that the short, stocky ex-Army sergeant is coaching losers, not winners. They're all students of the S.C. Department of Youth Services. They've committed major crimes, and many have long sentences.

And yet in a period of less than a year, Deese and the boxing program have turned a dozen of these youngsters around.

"I began in April of last year as a volunteer," said Deese, "at Willow Lane (the school for girls). They had the best equipment, what there was of it. Two months later, we moved to the Behavior Modification unit below the John G. Richards campus. We took in some of the roughest boys in the school. But you'd never know that now."

Deese, who had more than 300 amateur and professional fights as a lightweight, said, "One of the greatest things is they're trustworthy. They're dedicated sportsmen and they get along with their fellow men."

Editor's Note: Since the writing of this article, Dexter Leggette, Calvin Webb and Mallie Williams helped the Columbia Boxing Team win the All-South Boxing Tournament at Atlanta, Ga. in May. In June they represented the State of South Carolina at the National AAU Finals at Shreveport, La. Each is now ranked 16th nationally in their respective classes.

Continued from Page 1

direction, art produced by the students has been shown in Columbia stores, at the S.C. Youth Workers Convention in Myrtle Beach and at the S.C. Education Association convention. Sue was instrumental in obtaining a S.C. Arts Commission grant to construct a steel environmental statue on agency property. The statue was designed and built by students.

Bookhart, a graduate of Allen University, is Recreation Supervisor and Athletic Director at John G. Richards. Bookhart has been an employee for 11 years.

Mrs. Godbold, a Youth Counselor since 1972, has assumed many duties of a social worker because of a staff vacancy. She has enrolled in classes at Columbia Bible College to improve her skills.

Robinson has been working for the agency for three years. He is a former military policeman.



Herbert Deese Counsels Dexter Webb

This was not always so. Deese remembered when, during the early stages of training, two youngsters got mad at each other "and before we knew it had thrown off their gloves and were going at it barefisted."

"They've learned to control their tempers," he said. "They're much more patient. They're more confident. And responsible? I could take any one of them downtown, turn him loose and tell him to meet me back at the office at a certain time, and he'd be there."

In the beginning, Deese added, his charges got write-ups for infractions of the rules. "But not any more. They're the best behaved kids in the group. They want to box."

Deese has several youngsters whom he believes can go all the way. "One of our best fighters is Calvin Webb, who's lost only once out of nine bouts. He's 17 and a flyweight. He's got determination and heart, guts and a solid right hand. He's cool and fast. He's the one in ten thousand that comes along. He could be the next national flyweight champion."

Maynard Sabb, at 16, is a light flyweight. "I want to take him to the national AAU meet," said Deese. "He moves nice and he can hit."

Mallie Williams, 132 pounds, has a 5-2 record. "He's a lightweight," said Deese, "and with a little bit of experience he's going to be hard to cope with."

Dexter Leggette, a 156-pound, 17 year old light middleweight, "is a southpaw who moves good and has a cool head in the bout. He can punch with either hand. He is more or less the team captain."

Richard Simms, at 5-0, has the only perfect record. "He's just turned 17. He's a light middleweight and can hit with either hand. He hurt his leg and that's slowed him up some."

"Webb, Leggett and Sabb are mythical state champions in their weights," Deese said, "because they represented the state at the Southern Golden Gloves in Nashville."

The youngsters, all members of the Columbia Boxing Club; lost at the four-day event in March, but Deese didn't get discouraged. "This was their first tournament. They were a little tight. They'll get better as they get more experience."

Deese's group has already been invited to the Southeastern AAU championships in Atlanta in May, and there will be a representative in the Junior Olympics here this month. Webb, Leggett and Sabb will appear at the AAU Nationals in Shreveport, La.

"We practice hard," said Deese. "They work out five nights a week, two and a half hours each night. I hope they win, for their sakes. But if they never win another fight, they've conquered themselves, as far as I'm concerned. They have dedication, will and heart. They're all champions."

Profile: Mrs. Barbara T. Sylvester Chairman of the Board

NOTE: Mrs. Barbara T. Sylvester is the first woman chairman of any state agency and of the Board of the South Carolina Department of Youth Services. She assumed the chairmanship in 1971 following the death of the then chairman, William J. Goldsmith, being elected each succeeding year by her fellow board members. Since she will be retiring as chairman in July, *PROFILE* decided to ask her what changes have occurred and what she sees for the Agency and for troubled children in the future.

PROFILE: What changes have you seen take place?

MRS. SYLVESTER: So many alterations have occurred, beginning with the name change of the agency from the Department of Juvenile Corrections to Youth Services. This identifies us as a treatment and preventive delinquency group rather than merely being custodial. We implemented the law providing for the co-educational Reception and Evaluation Center where all children are received, tested and evaluated. The two girls' campuses were combined to create Willow Lane School, which also is a co-educational facility. The Youth Bureau concept has been established as our main source of preventive delinquency. Of these developments we can be most proud—they are being investigated and studied by various other state juvenile corrections agencies across the nation.

PROFILE: How has this affected the Agency's image?

MRS. SYLVESTER: I see nothing but good things for us. The general public is becoming more aware of our purpose and efforts—a surprising number are even becoming involved with our programs. It's one of the most exciting things I've ever been associated with.

PROFILE: What about people?

MRS. SYLVESTER: I believe in our staff, and *they believe in our program. In fact, many devote time outside their working hours.*

PROFILE: You mentioned testing children. How important is this?

MRS. SYLVESTER: Every child who comes to our Agency receives an evaluation. The testing aids the professionals in the treatment of the child's problem—or problems—by giving some initial direction of approach. Once the child is in the program the Agency serves as a guide allowing the youth to develop on his own.

PROFILE: Any problems?

MRS. SYLVESTER: Always. But these, too, we manage to work out.

PROFILE: Any comments on your term as chairman?



Gift To Agency

Board Chairman Mrs. Barbara T. Sylvester and Director Grady A. Decell admire the handcraft of Eugene McFaddin, student at John G. Richards. McFaddin's creation, symbol of the creative work being accomplished in the school's art department, was donated to the Agency. The framed rug is now on display in the lobby of the Central Office.

MRS. SYLVESTER: Only that at times it seems so lonely. I never have enough time to do all the things I would like to see done. We've got so much to do and we're so small and the problems are so huge. But we're making progress. Being chairman is not the most important thing. My devotion to the Agency will never change. Believing in what we are trying to do for all young people is what is important.

PROFILE: What of the future?

MRS. SYLVESTER: We're just beginning. Our Youth Bureaus will carry the message to the communities. We've begun working with predelinquents. Our institutional staff becomes more professional by the day, dealing with children with severe problems. We've got a long way to go, that's for sure. But we've made genuine progress. Do you see now why I'm so excited? Our best days are yet to come.

CAP is Vital in Rescue

Continued from Page 1

The aircraft flew up the Broad River and to the rear edge of the Agency's property. "There on the left is the farm. Notice how beautiful everything is from the air? It's so still and peaceful."

Compton circled the three campuses. To the west, a waning sun streaked its rays across the dark, somber ground.

"I was once called in as a point man—a search man on the ground—to find an airplane that crashed in a deeply wooded area. The aircraft had hit a pine tree head on. One man had apparently been on a strut when the plane hit the tree. None sur-

vived. I stayed with the plane until the rescue team arrived."

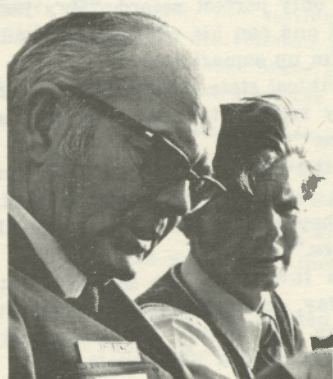
Sunshine glistened in silvery shafts on the underside of the wings as Compton banked and headed back to Owens Field.

"Saving a life. That's the important thing to me. I directed an air rescue operation once where a man was missing in Darlington County. He'd gone on an almost inaccessible dirt road into Chesterfield County, had gotten out of the car, had an attack of some kind and collapsed on the ground. One of our aircraft spotted him and directed rescue units to where he lay stricken. They got to him in time."

Compton's CAP duties are varied and complex. "I was wing standardization and evaluation officer for three years. I now have supervision for 26 aircraft scattered across the state."

He entered the landing pattern and smoothly operated the controls to touchdown. Five-One-Seven-Eight Fox landed two hundred feet down the runway, right on centerline.

Compton checked his watch. "If I play my cards right, I can make a run by the office before I go home. I keep going from my 'fun' job at CAP. But I wouldn't want to have it any other way."



George O. Compton, left, discusses a mechanical problem with Maj. John Work, Wing Standardization Officer for the S.C. Civil Air Patrol.